

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 were presented for examination and were pending in this application. In the latest Office Action, claims 1-11 were rejected. With this amendment, claim 1 is amended, and claim 2 is canceled. On the basis of the following remarks, consideration of this application and allowance of all pending claims are requested.

I. The latest Office Action should not have been Final

In the latest (second) Office Action, currently pending, the rejections from the first Office Action were withdrawn in favor of new rejections based on new art. The second Office Action was made final on the basis that Applicant's amendments necessitated the new grounds of rejection. But this Office Action should not have been made final because it rejected an originally presented claim using newly cited art. *See* MPEP § 706.07. Specifically, in the response to the first Office Action, original dependent claim 2 was rewritten as claim 7; however, its scope was not changed. This claim was then rejected based on a new reference (Lin) that the examiner could have presented in the first Office Action, but did not. The new rejection therefore could not have been necessitated by Applicant's amendments, so the latest Office Action should not have been made final.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the examiner withdraw the finality of the latest Office Action and consider the amendments and remarks made herein.

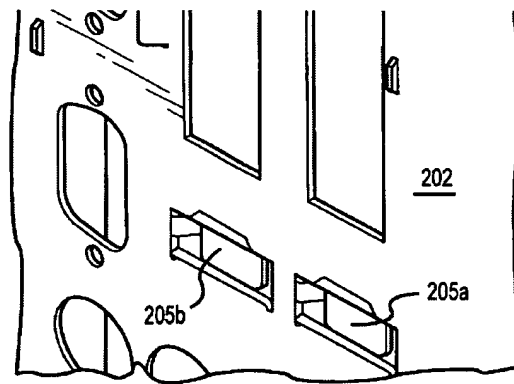
II. Claim Rejections — Claims 1-6

Claims 1-6 were rejected as made obvious by U.S. Patent No. 6,278,614 to Beaman et al in view of U.S. Patent 6,834,766 to Lin et al. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

In response to the first Office Action, Applicant explained why Beaman fails to disclose the limitation that "when the card is installed, a lower end of the bracket protrudes from an

opening in a bottom surface of the chassis.” The latest Office Action did not address these arguments; it merely repeated the same statement that Beaman discloses this claimed feature. Although Lin is now being used to reject these claims, Lin is not being cited for this feature (although, as explained below, Lin similarly does not disclose the feature). The addition of Lin, therefore, does not moot Applicant’s arguments showing that Beaman fails to disclose this claimed feature. It is thus unclear why or even whether the examiner found Applicant’s arguments regarding Beaman to be unpersuasive. For the examiner’s convenience, the explanation of why Beaman does not disclose or suggest this claimed feature is repeated herein.

As Beaman’s FIG. 5 shows, the lower end of the interface card is passed through a slot (element 205a) formed in a rear panel of the computer chassis. These slots are formed by a tab that has been separated from the chassis and deformed inward to create the slot through which the interface card’s bracket fits. For the examiner’s convenience, a reproduction of the relevant portion of Beaman’s FIG. 5 is shown below.



This slot arrangement for receiving the interface card’s bracket is not the opening in a bottom surface of the chassis that is claimed in claims 1-6. This distinction is important, in just one respect because of the additional manufacturing complexity and costs associated with Beaman’s chassis. Rather than merely punching a hole through the bottom surface of the chassis (as would enable the claimed invention), Beaman’s chassis must have multiple holes punched therethrough,

and the portion of the chassis between the holes must be pressed inward to form a slot to accept an interface card on the side panel of the chassis.

Although the rejection is now based on a combination of references instead of Beaman alone, this claimed limitation was asserted to be in Beaman. Because the limitation is not disclosed in Beaman, the combination of references does not render the claimed invention obvious. Claims 1-6 are therefore patentable over the cited art.

III. Claim Rejections — Claims 7-9 and 11

Claims 7-11 were rejected as anticipated by Lin. As with claims 1-6, claims 7-9 and 11 recite that, “when the card is installed, a lower end of the bracket protrudes from an opening in a bottom surface of the chassis.” As the specification explains, this feature secures an interface card at two points instead of just one (at the extension of the bracket and at the lower end of the bracket), and it allows the card to be seated lower in the chassis. Because Lin fails to disclose this limitation, Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

In the Office Action, the portions of Lin cited for this limitation are elements 22, 524, and 10 in the drawings and col. 3, lines 23-28, in the description. But these portions are not related in any way to the claimed limitation. Elements 22, 524, and 10 are part of a mechanism in the rear panel of the chassis for securing an interface card by an extension of the card’s bracket. Indeed, the examiner cited these elements for the claimed limitation of a window in the chassis through which an extension of an interface card passes and is secured against a locating plate. These same elements in Lin cannot also be the claimed openings in the bottom of the chassis through which the other end of the bracket protrudes. Similarly, col. 3, lines 23-28, of Lin discusses how an extension of a card’s bracket is secured by a clamp that fits over a window in the rear of the chassis. This passage says nothing of the lower end of the bracket protruding

through an opening in the bottom of the chassis. Therefore, the Office Action fails to point to anywhere in Lin that discloses this claimed feature.

Moreover, Lin's drawings show this feature to be absent from Lin's chassis, in which the bracket of an interface card does not protrude through an opening in the bottom surface of the chassis. For the examiner's convenience, Lin's FIG. 5 is shown below.

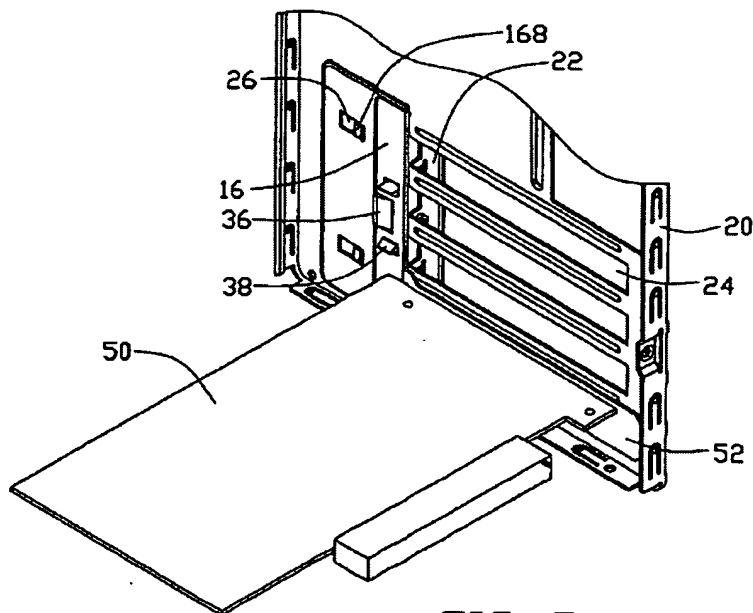


FIG. 5

It is apparent from this drawing that Lin's chassis does not have any openings in its bottom (i.e., near the "52" label) that could allow the lower end of the interface card's bracket to pass through.

Because Lin does not disclose this limitation, claims 7-11 are novel over Lin.

IV. Claim Rejections — Claim 10

Claim 10 was rejected as made obvious by Lin in view of Beaman. Claim 10, by its dependency on claim 7, recites that, "when the card is installed, a lower end of the bracket protrudes from an opening in a bottom surface of the chassis." As explained above, neither Lin

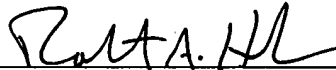
nor Beaman disclose this claimed feature; therefore, their combination cannot suggest the feature either. Claim 10 is thus patentable over any combination of Lin and Beaman.

V. Summary

Based on the foregoing, the application is in condition for allowance of all claims, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. If the examiner believes for any reason direct contact would help advance the prosecution of this case to allowance, the examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,
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